

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :

Jaroach et al.

Group Art Unit: TBA

Serial No.: 09/916,195

Examiner: TBA

Filed: July 27, 2001

For: NONSTEROIDAL ANTIINFLAMMATORY AGENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

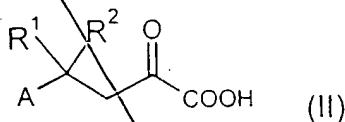
Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

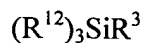
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) Process for the production of compounds of general formula I according to claim 1, characterized in that an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid of general formula II



in which A,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the meanings that are indicated in formula I,  
is either optionally esterified with a compound of general formula



(III)